

Bermuda's Application to the CDC Travel Health Notice System

Background

Bermuda is a United Kingdom Overseas Territories in the Region of the Americas with an estimated 2020 mid-year population of 64,054.

Although there remain ties to the Caribbean, Bermuda lies more than 800 miles (1,300 km) to the south/southwest of the Caribbean islands and the closest landmass is the state of North Carolina in the United States, some 1,050 km to the northwest. Therefore, Bermuda's climate is subtropical, with temperatures ranging from 18°C to 31°C, and an average annual rainfall of 1,400 mm. Bermuda is an archipelago of seven main islands linked through bridges and over 100 smaller, mostly uninhabited islands, spread over roughly 53 km² in the Atlantic Ocean.

Criteria Used to Determine COVID-19 Travel Health Notice Risk Levels

The CDC uses Travel Health Notices to tell Travelers about COVID risk levels for Foreign Countries. It uses two set of data (primary and secondary criteria):

- Virus transmission rates at the destination (primary criteria)
AND
- Healthcare capacity and public health infrastructure at the destination (secondary criteria)

CDC Primary Criteria: Virus Transmission Rates

Primary Criteria for COVID-19 Travel Health Notice Levels Destinations with 300,000 People or Less			
	LEVEL 3 HIGH RISK	LEVEL 2 MODERATE RISK	LEVEL 1 LOW RISK
Number of new cases	More than 10	7-10	3-6
New Case Trajectory	Accelerating or growing	Decelerating, slowing, OR stable	

CDC Secondary Criteria: Healthcare capacity and public health infrastructure at the destination

Secondary Criteria for COVID-19 Travel Health Notices	
ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES CAPACITY	SCORE
Both healthcare and public health systems are intact and meeting the needs of the population	1
Healthcare and/or public health systems have been exceeded or compromised	2
Information is unavailable or inconsistent	3

Source: How CDC Determines the Level of a Destination's COVID-19 Travel Health Notice:

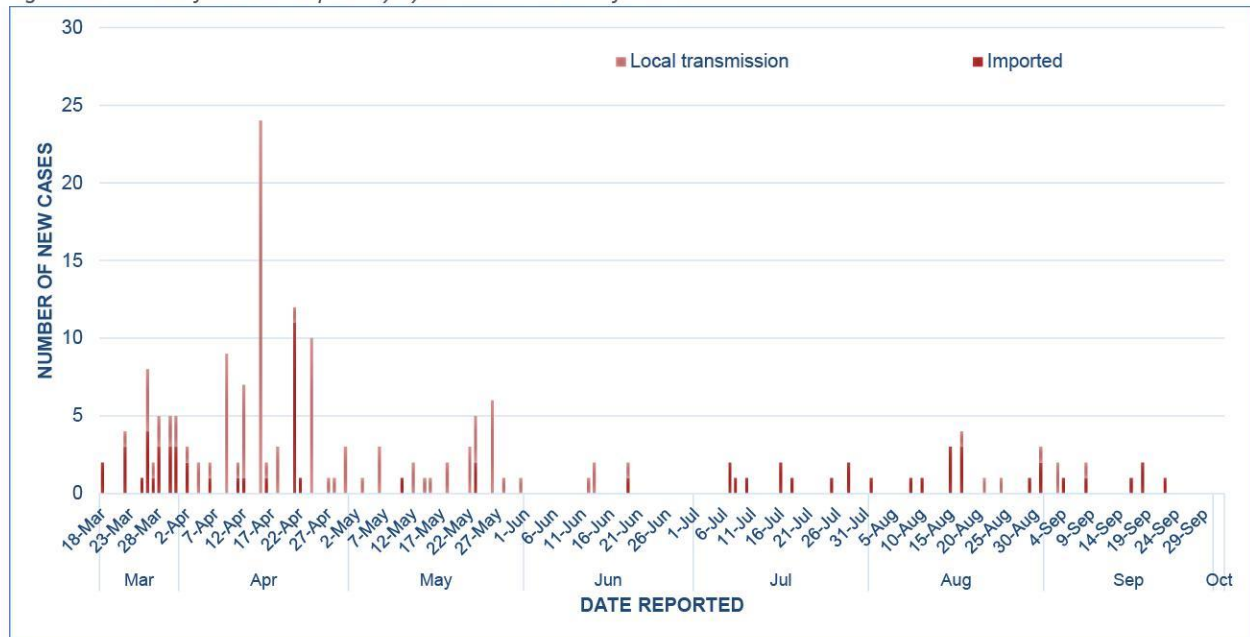
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/how-level-is-determined.html>

Evidence that Bermuda meets Primary Criteria of Level 1 Low Risk

Bermuda has been successful in containing the SAR-COV2 Virus since the start of the pandemic. The first cases were seen on the island in March 2020. So far, we have had 181 cases on the island and this is made up of 70 imported cases and 111 acquired on Island. There have been 9 deaths and at present, there are 3 active cases but no hospitalizations.

Figure 1 shows the number of cases per day by transmission classification. It shows that the number of new cases have been consistently below 7 (Level 2 Moderate risk criteria) since 25 April 2020. The case trajectory is also decelerating, with no cases having been detected since 22 September 2020. It is important to note that the reopening of the airport in July 2020 has not contributed to a significant increase in the number of cases seen on the Island; of the 35 new cases confirmed since the airport reopened, 28 have been imported and 7 locally acquired. It is also important to note that Bermuda has a robust testing regime with approximately 30,000 individuals having been tested over the past several months.

Figure 1. Number of New Cases per Day by Transmission Classification



Evidence that Bermuda meets Secondary Criteria Score of 1 for Essential Health Services Capacity

Bermuda has 303 hospital beds, inclusive of 120 acute beds within the King Edward Memorial Hospital. The bed capacity of the hospital can be increased by 50 beds when needed. This hospital has 9 Intensive Care Unit beds and this can be rapidly scaled up to 32 beds if needed. This hospital is equipped with 33 ventilators and anesthetic machines which can be used to support a COVID-19 response.

The last COVID-19 related Intensive Care Unit admission was in April 2020 and there have been no persons in ICU with COVID-19 since June 2020. The hospital remains at high preparedness for this pandemic. It provides COVID-secure facilities for patients and residents of the Island.

Summary

Bermuda has been very successful in its coordinated response to this pandemic. It remains at a high state of preparedness. This is why it is very attractive to tourist and business visitors. Its present classification as a Level 2 country does not fit with the CDC criteria. Bermuda's virus transmission rate, healthcare capacity and public health infrastructure is well placed to be on Level 1 based on the CDC criteria. Your

consideration to Bermuda's de-escalation to Level 1 would be sincerely appreciated. If you require any additional statistics or information please do not hesitate to contact us at your convenience.

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